

Antimicrobial Stewardship: When Less is More.

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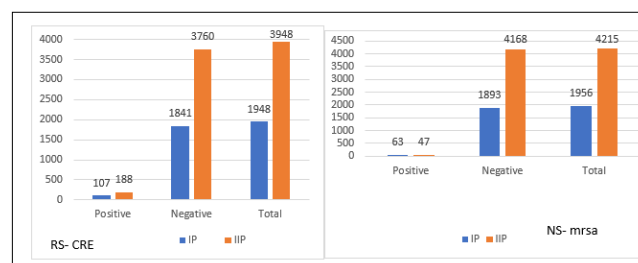
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Received: July 27, 2024; **Accepted:** August 05, 2024; **Published:** September 16, 2024

Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (ASPs) have been proven to help reduce antibiotic consumption, promote appropriate use, and decrease the incidence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In this study, we aimed to evaluate the impact of ASPs on antibiotics consumption and AMR spread in a Southern Italy hospital from May 2023 to December 2023 (IIP), compared to the same period in 2022 (IP). The results of the study showed the number of hospitalizations increased by 24%, from 109,584 to 135,874, while the total amount of antibiotics administered decreased from 52.1 to 38.6 defined daily doses (DDD) per 100 bed-days. There was a significant increase in the number of rectal swabs taken to detect carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), while the positivity rate of these infections decreased significantly. The incidence of several infections decrease, including CRPsA, MRSA, PDR, and VanA infections. This study provides further evidence that ASPs can be effective in reducing antibiotic consumption and preventing the spread of AMR. By promoting the appropriate use of antibiotics and implementing infection control measures, we can help preserve the effectiveness of these life-saving drugs and promote better patient outcomes. However, more efforts are needed to improve healthcare practices and reduce costs.



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